



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591



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DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

January 20, 2010

Paul E. Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Planning & Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Mr. Stacey,

I write to urge your rejection of the proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations (Public Act 05-142) currently before your agency with regards to the Town of Colchester.

This legislation, passed with near unanimity in 2005, needs to be viewed in the context of our present day fiscal situation. The Town of Colchester's diversion permits came at a significant cost to the town and only after much difficulty. The looming potential for state aid reductions, coupled with a declining revenue base, indicates that the town's paramount concern is encouraging business expansion. The proposed regulations would rob the town's current economic development plan of a clear vision moving forward. Adding to this uncertainty is the question of whether these regulations will challenge the town's ability to maintain sufficient water supplies to support business growth.

I am pleased to echo the concerns of many other town entities in offering my opposition to the proposed regulations as they are currently drafted. I urge your agency to fully assess the impact of these regulations on our public water supplies and on the state's economic recovery. In doing so, the town will be better equipped to strike a balance between environmental and economic concerns.

Sincerely,

Rep/Linda Orange
Deputy Speaker of the House